

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 INR-07

CU-02 CIAE-00 /054 W

-----122022Z 021368 /46

R 121815Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8517

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0271

FOR AID, STATE AND EMBASSY LABOR OFFICERS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AIFLD, AR

SUBJECT: USG LABOR PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA

REF: (A) AID 2 CIRCULAR A-583, 1976, (B) STATE 1581

1. WE REFRAINED FROM RESPONDING EARLIER BECAUSE WE DID NOT WISH TO COMMENT GRATUITOUSLY ON A PROGRAM IN EFFECT ELSEWHERE WHICH NO LONGER AFFECTS US, EXCEPT IN A MARGINAL WAY. MOREOVER, AN ADDITIONAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN THAT WE WERE NOT PREPARED, AND CONTINUE UNPREPARED, TO COMMIT OURSELVES NOW WITH RESPECT TO A POSSIBLE LABOR PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA, UNTIL THE LABOR SITUATION BECOMES FURTHER CLARIFIED AND THERE ARE GREATER PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES.

2. IN VIEW OF YOUR FOLLOW-UP REFTEL B, HOWEVER, WE HEREWITH PROPOSE TO REPLY, LIMITING OURSELVES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT WE THINK MAY BE CALLED FOR IN THE ARGENTINE CONTEXT IN THE FUTURE AND ALSO MAKING SOME ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE REAL LIMITS ON POSSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGE IN CURRENT USG LABOR PROGRAMS. IN THE WAY OF A GENERAL STATEMENT, WE WOULD SAY THAT WE VERY DEFINITELY THINK THERE SHOULD BE AID-FUNDED LABOR PROGRAMS IN LATIN AMERICA. WE ASSUME AIFLD WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CHOSEN INSTRUMENT, OR AT LEAST THE CHOSEN PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT, AND THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO US. HOWEVER, THIS POST HAS RECORDED IN THE PAST ITS OPPOSITION TO AN OVERT GOVERNMENT-FINANCED AMERICAN LABOR/TRAINING INSTITUTE IN ARGENTINA PER SE. WE BELIEVE THAT AN AIFLD PROGRAM FOR ARGENTINA DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO MEAN THE EXISTENCE OF AN IDENTIFIABLE US INSTITUTE IN ARGENTINA ON THE SAME BASIS AS THAT WHICH

EXISTED BEFORE. WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR A FULL DISCUSSION OF WHAT WILL BE NEEDED IN ARGENTINA, WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE FROM THE AFL/CIO AND AIFLD IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE PROPOSALS AS TO HOW TO CARRY OUT A SUBTLE, FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE EFFORT HAND TAILORED FOR MINIMIZING ARGENTINE SENSIBILITIES AND MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES.

3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO THE NUMBERING FOLLOWED IN THE DRAFT PAPER AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, REFER TO AA/LA'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

(2) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

(3) RECOMMEND APPROVAL, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT COVERT OR SEMI-COVERT PROGRAMS (NOT NECESSARILY FINANCED BY AID) FROM TIME TO TIME MAY BE CALLED FOR IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

(4A) AIFLD SHOULD BE THE CHOSEN PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT, BUT, INSOFAR AS ARGENTINA IS CONCERNED, WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS EXPRESSED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

(4B) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

(6) IN EXPECTATION THAT A TIME WILL COME WHEN IT WILL BE OPPORTUNE TO DISCUSS A MORE ACTIVE LABOR PROGRAM FOR ARGENTINA, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO FORECLOSE NOW ANY FUTURE DISCUSSION OF A US LABOR EMISSARY PRESENCE AS ONE OF THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT TO PROSPER, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AT THE INVITATION OF, AND WITH THE PROTECTION OF, THE CGT, ONCE THAT HAS BEEN RECONSTITUTED. FAILING
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THIS, A US-NATIONAL ITS REPRESENTATIVE COULD PERHAPS PLAY THIS KIND OF AN EXPANDED ROLE DE FACTO. (HE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE RESIDENT HERE.) WE DO THINK THAT ONE POSSIBLE WAY OF EDGING INTO A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ARGENTINA IN THE FUTURE MAY BE BY BEEFING UP ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE BETTER COORDINATED THAN THEY ARE AT PRESENT IN ORDER TO PRODUCE WHAT SHOULD BE A PRINCIPAL BY-PRODUCT--THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN THE CGT AND THE AFL-CIO AND THE DRAWING OF THE CGT INTO A HEMISPHERIC ARRANGEMENT. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND APPROVAL IN THE BELIEF THAT AN ITS OR OTHER UNION-TO-UNION SUBCONTRACT PROGRAM IN OR FOR ARGENTINA COULD, IN THE FUTURE, CONSTITUTE A SUFFICIENT DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITY TO WARRANT THE EXISTENCE OF A "LABOR AMBASSADOR" ACTING AS UNOBTRUSIVELY AS POSSIBLE IN AN OVERSEER, COORDINATING OR CLEARING HOUSE CAPACITY.

(7A) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

(7B) EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MINIMIZE EMBASSY SUPERVISORY CONTROL TO THE EXTENT THAT IS PRUDENT, BUT APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 2 ASSUMES THAT COUNTRY APPENDIX WOULD ADEQUATELY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EMBASSY'S VIEWS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COUNTRY. WE WOULD ALSO THINK THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN A COUNTRY PROGRAM DURING THE COURSE OF A YEAR SHOULD BE CLEARED BY EMBASSY.

(7C) NOT APPLICABLE TO US AT THE MOMENT. HOWEVER, WERE WE

TO HAVE A "LABOR AMBASSADOR" OR OTHER TYPE OF PERSONNEL IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD THINK IN PRINCIPLE THAT ANYTHING IMPLYING OFFICIAL STATUS VIS-A-VIS THE HOST GOVERNMENT (E.G. DUTY FREE CUSTOMS) SHOULD BE AVOIDED. BELIEVE POUCH SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE FOR SENSITIVE MATERIALS; RESERVE JUDGMENT ON OTHER ISSUES.

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0271

(8) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.
(10) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.
(12) THAT THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES A FRUITFUL TARGET OF ATTACK BY US' ENEMIES IN LATIN AMERICA IS UNDENIABLE. HOWEVER, THE ARRANGEMENT CAN BE LIVED WITH. NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY, WE BELIEVE, ANY RE-ENTRY HERE SHOULD BE SUBTLE AND OBSCURED.
(16) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.
(19) RECOMMEND PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF A/H RECOMMENDATION, BUT FURTHER STUDY OF IAF WORK WITH CLAT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO DETERMINE INTER ALIA IMPACT, IF ANY, WHICH SUCH SUPPORT HAS HAD ON CLAT ATTITUDE TOWARD US.
(20) RECOMMEND APPROVAL.
(7D) AGREE.
(13) AGREE WITH ROLE UPGRADING, BUT DISAGREE WITH THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE'S RECOMMENDATION, AT LEAST IN SOUTH AMERICA.
(14) AGREE, PROVIDED SOMETHING IS ALSO DONE TO IMPROVE ADVANCEMENT PROSPECTS OF OFFICERS CURRENTLY IN PROGRAM AND PROVIDED SUCH NEW ADDITIONS DO NOT SERVE TO FURTHER PREJUDICE THOSE CURRENTLY IN THE SYSTEM.
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(16) RECOMMEND APPROVAL. BELIEVE EXISTENCE OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES DESIRABLE FOR SPECIAL COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS.
(17) AGREE.

(18) STRONGLY CONCUR AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO OR IN COORDINATION WITH OAS OR ILO PROGRAMS, PROVIDED THERE IS DEMONSTRATED INTEREST AND SUPPORT BY HOST GOVERNMENT.

4. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH RECENT PACKETS CONCERNING AIFLD PROGRAMS SENT US BY LA/MRSD/L AT OUR REQUEST. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT AIFLD IS CURRENTLY SENDING US NAMES OF ARGENTINE PARTICIPANTS AT FRONT ROYAL OR OTHER COURSES IN US. WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY NAMES OF TRAVELERS SINCE AUGUST-SEPTEMBER. WE WOULD ALSO COMMENT THAT ANNUAL UNION-TO-UNION REPORTS SENT US DO NOT APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENTLY DETAINED REGARDING ARGENTINA FOR US TO FORM ANY JUDGMENTS CONCERNING EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PROGRAMS.

5. PLEASE RETRANSMIT PAGE 81 OF A/H REPORT, WHICH MISSING FROM OUR COPY.
HILL

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